

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

DOCKETING DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING

DOCKET NO. 2009-479-WS

UNITED UTILITY COMPANIES, INC. – APPLICATION FOR ADJUSTMENT OF RATES AND CHARGES AND MODIFICATIONS TO CERTAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE PROVISION OF WATER AND SEWER SERVICE

United Utility Companies, Inc. (UUC or the Company) has filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) for an adjustment of the Company's rates and charges and modification of certain terms and conditions for the provision of water and sewer service. UUC is a public utility, as defined by S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-10(4) (Supp. 2008), providing water and sewer service to the public for compensation in certain areas of South Carolina pursuant to rates approved by the Commission in Docket No. 2000-210-W/S.

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240 (Supp. 2008) and 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-512.4.A and 103-712.4.A (Supp. 2008), the Company requests that the Commission approve an increase in its monthly water and sewer service rates. Pursuant to 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-503 and 103-703, Applicant further proposes a modification to the terms and conditions under which a tenant will be billed for water and sewer services to comport with current S.C. Code Ann. § 27-33-50 (Supp. 2008), as same may be amended in the future. Also, pursuant to 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-703, Applicant proposes to add language requiring its customers who install, permit to be installed or maintain a cross connection between the Company's water system and any other non-public water system to install a backflow prevention device in accordance with 24A S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-58.7.F (Supp. 2008), as may be amended from time to time. The Company further proposes to require such customers to annually have such cross connection inspected by a licensed certified tester and provide to Utility no later than June 30th of each year a copy of a written inspection report and testing results submitted by the certified tester in accordance with 24A S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 61-58.7.F (Supp. 2008), as same may be amended from time to time. Additionally, Applicant proposes to modify the provision dealing with single family equivalents to incorporate the pertinent regulation of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ("DHEC"), and to include language pertaining to the terms and conditions for extensions of its facilities for service. Applicant also proposes to amend its rate schedule to provide that, in lieu of mailing its customers a paper bill, it may provide an electronic bill to its water and sewer customers on the Company's website if requested by the customer in writing. Finally, the Company proposes to increase its approved Notification Fee to be charged in connection with a notice required to be provided pursuant to 26 S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-535.1 (Supp. 2008) prior to disconnection of sewer services.

In support of its request for an adjustment in the Company's water and sewer rates, terms and conditions UUC asserts, among other things, that the proposed water and sewer rate increases are necessary in order that it may provide reasonable and adequate service to its customers, comply with standards and regulations set by the Department of Health and Environmental Control and other governmental agencies which regulate the environmental aspect of the Company's business, and earn a reasonable return on its investment and attract capital for future improvements. The Company also asserts that the proposed water and sewer rate increases are necessary to preserve its financial integrity and to permit continued investment in and maintenance of its facilities so as to provide reliable and high quality services. Further, the Company asserts that an increase in its Notification Fee is necessary due to increased postal costs and increased mailings due to the number of delinquent customers.

THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE RATES AND CHARGES ARE SET FORTH BELOW
(The complete rate schedule is available from the Company at the address below and on the
Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov)

WATER

Monthly Charges	Current	Proposed
<u>Residential (per single family house, condominium, mobile home, apartment unit)</u>		
<u>Residential</u>		
Base Facilities Charge	\$11.50	\$20.69 per unit
Commodity Charge	\$4.50 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft	\$8.09 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft
 <u>Commercial</u>		
Basic Facilities Charge		
Per single family equivalent (SFE)	\$11.50	\$20.69 Per SFE
Commodity Charge:	\$4.50 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft	\$8.09 per 1,000 gallons or 134 cft

SEWER

	Current	Proposed
Residential monthly charge		
Per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit	\$48.24 per unit	\$73.89 per unit
Mobile Homes – monthly charge	\$35.58 per unit	\$54.50 per unit
Commercial – monthly charge	\$48.24 per SFE	\$73.89 per SFE
 <u>Charge for Sewer Collection Only</u>		
Residential – monthly charge per single-family house, condominium, mobile home or apartment unit	\$24.66 SFE	\$37.77 per unit
Commercial – monthly charge	\$24.66 per SFE	\$37.77 per SFE
Per single-family equivalent		
 Notification Fee pursuant to Regulation 103-535.1	\$4.00	\$24.00

A copy of the Company's Application can be obtained from the Commission at the following address: Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Docketing Department, P. O. Drawer 11649, Columbia, South Carolina 29211. Additionally, UUC's Application is available on the Commission's website at www.psc.sc.gov.

In order for testimony and evidence to be received from all interested parties, a public hearing will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Dr., Columbia, South Carolina on **Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.**

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record with the right of cross-examination should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, on or before **January 18, 2010**, and indicate the amount of time required for his presentation. Please include an email address for receipt of future Commission correspondence in the Petition to Intervene. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2009-479-W/S.***

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify the Docketing Department, in writing, at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, Post Office Box 11263, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, and John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P.A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416 on or before **January 18, 2010**, and indicate the amount of time required for the presentation. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2009-479-W/S.***

Any person who wishes to request a hearing in his or her county of residence should notify on or before January 25, 2010, in writing, the Docketing Department at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, Post Office Box 11263, Columbia, South Carolina 29211, and John M. S. Hoefer, Esquire, Willoughby & Hoefer, P. A., Post Office Box 8416, Columbia, South Carolina 29202-8416. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2009-479-W/S.***

Any person who wishes to be notified of any change in the hearing date, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Docketing Department in writing at the address below on or before **January 18, 2010**. ***Please refer to Docket No. 2009-479-W/S.***

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission in Columbia at 803-896-5100.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina
Attn: Docketing Department
Post Office Drawer 11649
Columbia, SC 29211

11/24/09